

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22916,1450.

Dated: <u>January 4, 2007</u>

EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

Group Art Unit: 2131

Docket No.: SONYJP 3.0-816

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Sako et al.

Application No.: 09/940,710

: Group Art Unit: 2131

Filed: August 28, 2001

: Examiner: K. Abrishamkar

For: DATA OUTPUT METHOD AND APPARATUS, DATA PLAYBACK METHOD AND APPARATUS, DATA RECORDING METHOD AND APPARATUS, AND DATA RECORDING AND PLAYBACK METHOD

AND APPARATUS

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

DO NOT ENTER X.A. 106

MS AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 7, 2006, finally rejecting claims 1-7, 9-23, 35-37, 39-41, 48-52, 55-57, 59-61, 64-65, 80-81, 84-85, 87-89, and 92-93, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows: